

# EIS for SpaceX Texas Launch Site

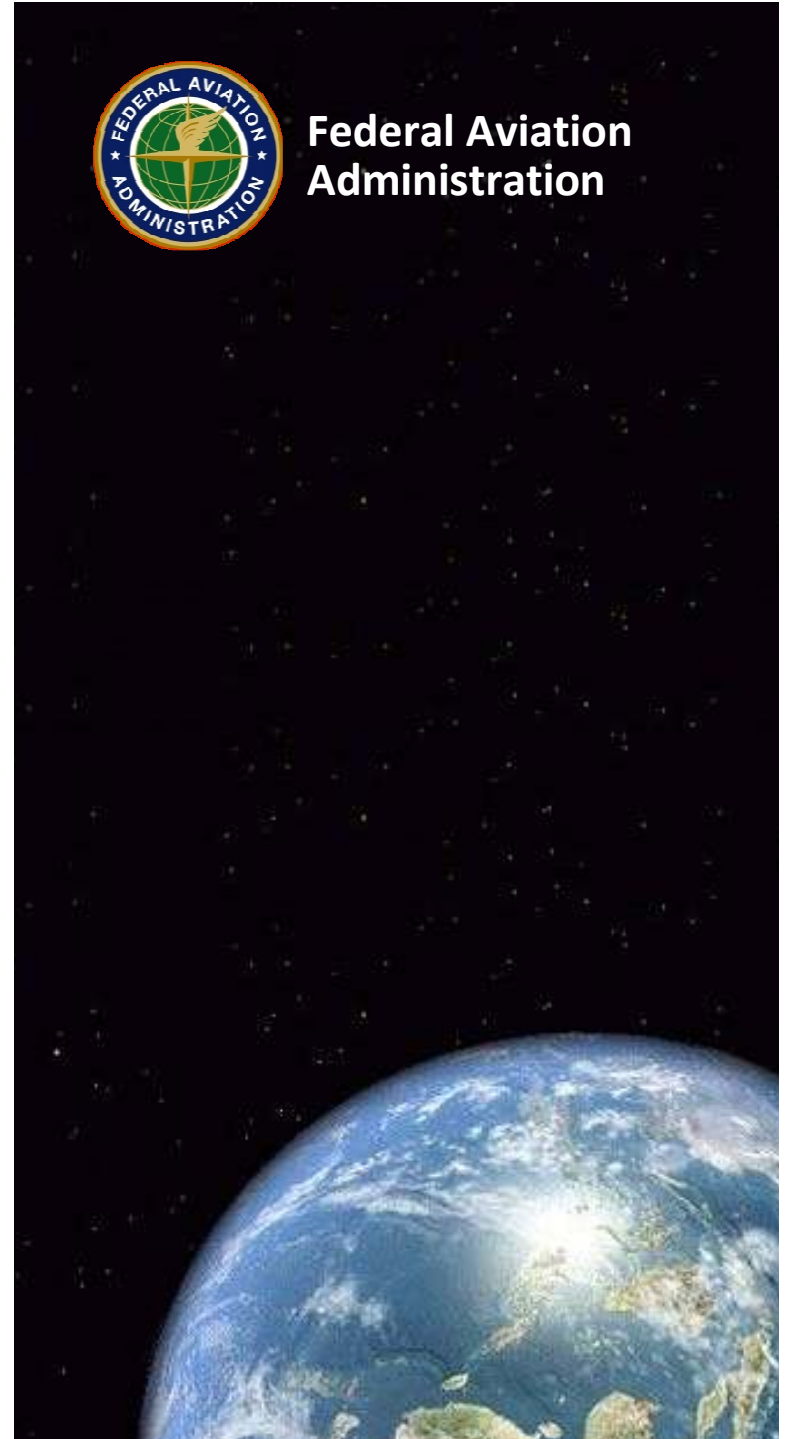
## Scoping Meeting

By: **Schedir Illoldi and Stacey Zee**, FAA,  
Office of Commercial Space Transportation

Date: **May 15, 2012**



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**



# Why are we here?

- Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) proposes to launch the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launch vehicles in Cameron County, Texas
- To conduct launches, SpaceX must apply for launch licenses or experimental permits from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST)
- FAA licenses and regulates U.S. commercial space launch and reentry activity, as well as the operation of commercial launch and reentry sites



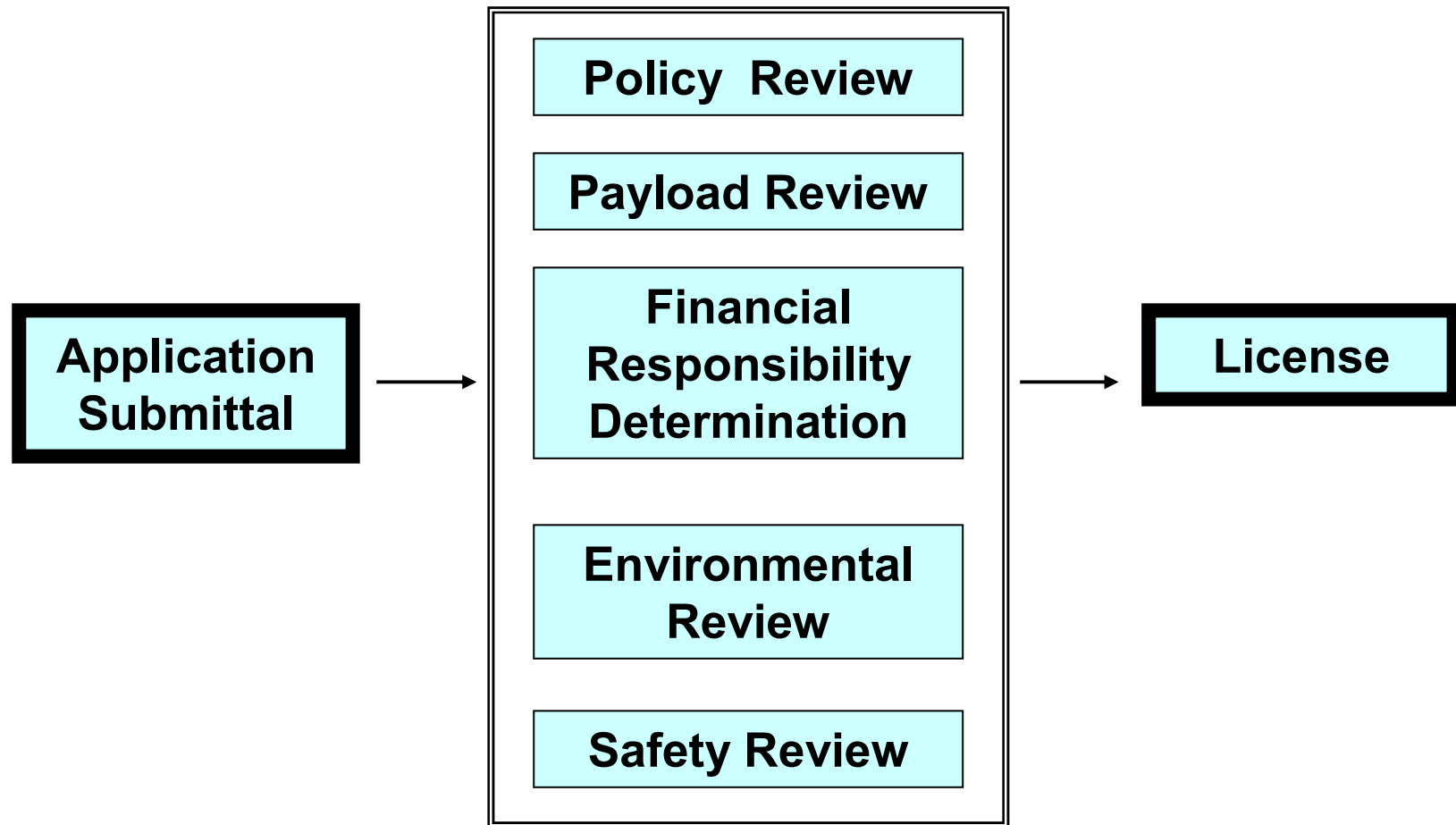
# FAA Licensing Authority

- FAA issues licenses for:
  - Launch (orbital and suborbital)
  - Reentry (purposeful)
  - Operation of a launch site
  - Operation of a reentry site
- FAA issues experimental permits for developmental reusable suborbital rockets



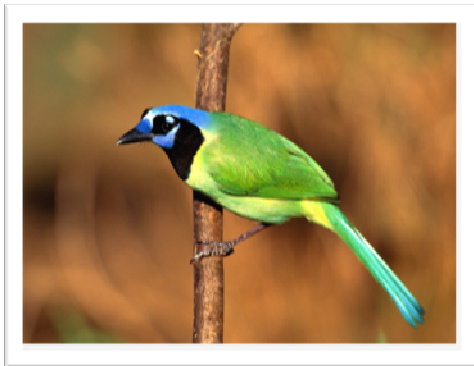
*FAA only licenses commercial activities*

# How does the Licensing/Permitting process work?



# Why is an environmental review necessary?

- Issuing launch licenses and experimental permits must be reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- NEPA requires the FAA to identify and analyze environmental impacts of licensing and permitting rocket launches



# What is the Proposed Action?

- FAA would issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to SpaceX to conduct rocket launches
- SpaceX proposes to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy (up to two per year), and a variety of smaller reusable suborbital launch vehicles
- The Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy may also carry a capsule, such as the SpaceX Dragon Capsule
- SpaceX proposes to conduct up to 12 launches a year





# What is the Proposed Action?

- Proposed private site in Cameron County
- Proposed facilities include
  - Vertical launch area
  - Control center area



# What are the alternatives?

- Proposed Action – Issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to SpaceX
- No Action Alternative – FAA would not issue launch licenses or experimental permits to SpaceX
- Other
  - Alternatives suggested during the scoping process will be considered for inclusion in the EIS
  - Alternatives considered but not carried forward in the environmental analysis will be described in the EIS
  - Preferred alternative will be identified in the EIS





# What will be analyzed in the EIS?

- Land Use and Section 4(f)
- Noise
- Visual Resources and Light Emissions
- Cultural Resources
- Air Quality and Climate
- Water Resources
- Coastal Resources
- Biological Resources
- Hazardous Materials and Waste
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Energy Supply and Natural Resources
- Construction Impacts
- Induced Impacts
- Cumulative Impacts

*There might not be impacts associated with every resource area*



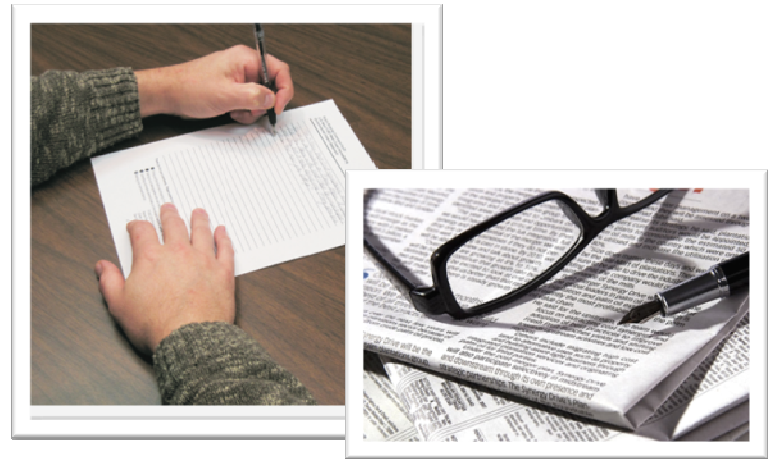
# What is the scoping schedule?

- April 10, 2012 – Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register*
- May 15, 2012 – Public scoping meeting to provide information and receive comments
- May 30, 2012 – Close of scoping comment period



# What are the next steps?

- Develop and release Draft EIS
  - Public Comment Period (45 Days)
  - Hold public hearing on Draft EIS during comment period
- Address comments on the Draft EIS
- Develop and release Final EIS
- 30-day waiting period
- Issue Record of Decision



# Where can I get more information?

- Registration table
  - Handouts and comment forms
  - Request a copy of the Draft EIS
- Website – project link is listed on: <http://ast.faa.gov>
- Local libraries
  - Brownsville Library
  - Oliveira Arnulfo Memorial Library
  - Southmost Branch Library



# Administrative Points

- Please sign up at the registration table
  - To present oral comments/statements
  - To request a copy of the Draft EIS when it is released
- Submit written comments at the comment table or use the methods described in the Fact Sheets
- All comments must be received by May 30, 2012

